New Facts About The Assassination That Stunned The World

The bullets that Lee Harvey Oswald used to kill President John F. Kennedy in Dallas on Nov. 22, 1963, came from the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), the U.S. government's own secret spy organization.

That shocking information comes out of the 80,000 pages of heretofore secret documents just released by the FBI on the assassination, and from MIDNIGHT/GLOBE's own panel of experts on the crime of all time.

The evidence linking the Central Intelligence Agency with the assassination has been mounting.

In May, 1977, GLOBE reported that the CIA provided the rifles used to murder the President.

Now, it is possible for the first time to tell who loaded those deadly weapons.

The sordid story also implicates the most honored and prestigious of all this nation's fighting forces — the U.S. Marine Corps.

It was the Marine Corps that put those fatal bullets into the ruthless hands of the CIA.

As do all of its nefarious tools, the 6.5 millimeter bullets came to the CIA in a roundabout way.

That's the way the agency operates. Equipment is "sanitized," meaning that it is of such a kind, or that it is purchased in such a way as to remove the possibility that it may be traced back.

The spent 6.5 mm shells found with Oswald's Mannlicher-Carcano rifle on the sixth floor of the Texas School Book Depository had met the CIA's most rigid sanitary requirements.

They were part of a consignment of four million rounds of 6.5 mm ammunition purchased by the Marine Corps some time in the 1950s, according to the FBI documents, and also to J. David Truby of Indiana, Pa., a recognized expert on the assassination of JFK.

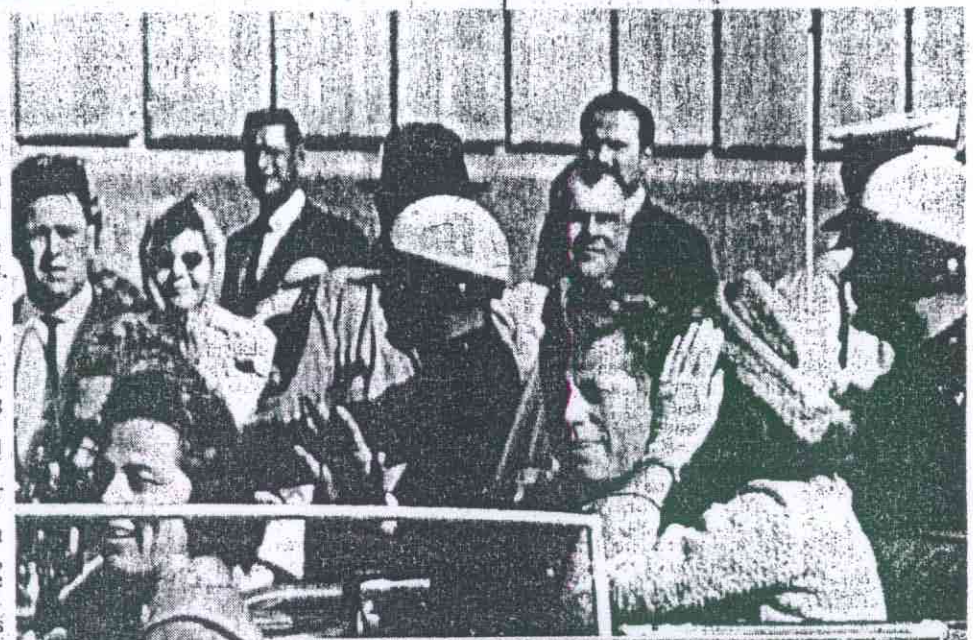
By ART BENTLEY and HARRY SCOTT

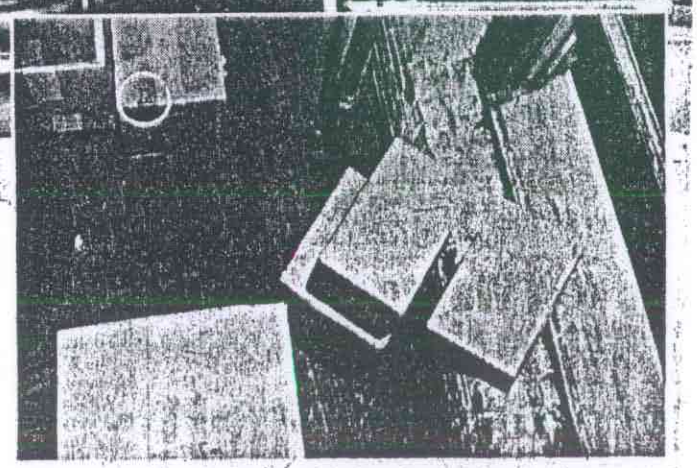
The purchase might have been considered insignificant but for one puzzling fact. At no time has any U.S. military force ever been armed with rifles which fire 6.5 mm bullets, the type that Oswald used to kill President Kennedy.

Why would the Marine Corps buy four million rounds of ammunition for which it had no use?

To front for the CIA, Truby declared. To allow the agency to acquire the ammo without its direct involvement in the purchase. To "sanitize" the bullets. And, ultimately, to prepare the way for the killing of an American president and the Corps' commander in chief.

An FBI memorandum dated Dec. 2, 1963, bears him out.





TOP: KENNEDY and Jackie, shortly before the shooting.
ABOVE: THE cartons on which Oswald braced his arms to steady the rifle.

"The interesting thing about this order is that it is for ammunition which does not fit and cannot be fired in any of the United States Marine Corps weapons," the note said.

"This gives rise to the obvious speculation that it is a contract for ammunition placed by CIA with Western Cartridge Corporation under a USMC cover for concealment purposes."

The bullets were made in 1944 by the Western Cartridge Corp. of East Alton, Ill., which is now part of the Winchester-Western Division of Olin Industries, a major U.S. corporation with headquarters in Stamford, Conn.

That much is on record, in a letter dated July 14, 1965, from H.J. Gebelein, assistant sales service manager, to a Stewart Galanor of Riverdale, N.Y., who had inquired about the 6.5 mm bullet.

"This is not being produced commercially by our company at this time," Gebelein wrote. "Any previous production on this cartridge was made against government contracts which were completed in 1944. Therefore, any of this ammunition which is on the market today is government surplus ammunition."

Truby speculates that behind that contract was the shadowy hand of the Office of Strategic Services, the predecessor of the CIA.

"Admittedly, it's an inference," he told GLOBE. "But I think it's a pretty good one."

The OSS was in charge of backing and providing arms for partisan groups fighting Hitler and Mussolini during World War II. Many of the partisans were Italians, who used the 6.5 mm Mannlicher-Carcano rifle. Hence, the necessity of 6.5 mm ammunition.

For more than 10 years, this mammoth munitions shipment was parceled out among partisans whom the OSS, and later, the CIA, was helping throughout Europe.

Some of the bullets found their way to Greece.

The Marine Corps bought the ammunition because the CIA was running short of a necessary staple.

The Mannlicher-Carcano is one of its preferred rifles for murder and mayhem abroad.

"No intelligence agency uses equipment from its own country," Truby explained. "The CIA uses equipment that can't be traced to it. Most of its weapons are European.

"The Mannlicher-Carcano rifle is often used by the agency in the Caribbean, particularly by Cuban exiles working for the agency."

In the early 1960s, the weapons were easy to come by. Oswald's was bought by mail order for less than $20.

Six months before the Kennedy assassination, Oswald presumably "sighted in" the rifle with which he would later kill the president — with the bullets of the CIA.

He tried to kill retired Air Force Gen. Edwin A. Walker, a controversial figure on the Dallas political scene. Oswald's bullet crashed through a window of his house as Walker worked at his desk, missing his head by inches.

The bullet was recovered and examined, but it was so severely mutilated that it couldn't be traced — until Nov. 22, 1963, when bullets fired from the same gun killed an American president and wounded a Texas governor early on a bright, chilly afternoon in Dallas.

The bullets of the CIA.

PRESIDENTIAL car rushes at high speed to Parkland Memorial Hospital after the shooting.

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